

CLAIMS

1. A method for downmodulating an immune response comprising contacting immune cells from a subject with at least one antibody that binds to at least one B7 molecule in  
5 combination with a Rapamycin compound.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the cells are contacted with two antibodies that bind at least two different B7 molecules.
- 10 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of contacting is performed ex vivo.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of contacting is performed in vivo.
5. A method for downmodulating an immune response in a subject having an  
15 autoimmune disorder comprising contacting immune cells from the subject with at least one antibody that binds to at least one B7 molecule in combination with a Rapamycin compound.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the immune cells are contacted with two antibodies that bind at least two different B7 molecules.
- 20 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the autoimmune disorder is systemic lupus erythematosus.
8. A method for downmodulating an immune response in a subject suffering from  
25 systemic lupus erythematosus comprising administering to the subject an antibody that binds to B7-1, an antibody that binds to B7-2, and a Rapamycin compound, wherein the antibody that binds to B7-1 and the antibody that binds to B7-2 are administered over at least one short course of therapy.
- 30 9. A method for downmodulating an immune response in a subject suffering from systemic lupus erythematosus comprising administering to the subject an antibody that binds to B7-1, an antibody that binds to B7-2, and a Rapamycin compound, wherein the Rapamycin compound is administered over at least one intermediate course of therapy.

10. A method for downmodulating an immune response in a subject suffering from systemic lupus erythematosus comprising administering to said subject an antibody that binds B7-1, an antibody that binds B7-2, and a Rapamycin compound, wherein said Rapamycin compound is administered over at least one extended course of therapy.

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11. A method for downmodulating an immune response in a subject suffering from systemic lupus erythematosus comprising administering to said subject an antibody that binds B7-1, an antibody that binds B7-2, and a Rapamycin compound, wherein said Rapamycin compound is administered according to an early dosing regimen.

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12. A method for downmodulating an immune response in a subject suffering from systemic lupus erythematosus comprising administering to said subject an antibody that binds B7-1, an antibody that binds B7-2, and a Rapamycin compound, wherein said Rapamycin compound is administered according to a late dosing regimen.

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13. A method for downmodulating an immune response in a subject suffering from systemic lupus erythematosus comprising administering to said subject an antibody that binds B7-1, an antibody that binds B7-2, a Rapamycin compound, and an immunosuppressing agents, wherein said immunosuppressing agent is selected from the group consisting of  
20 FK506, Cyclosporin A and cyclophosphamide.